

Summer Meal Programs at the Library
Children and Teens Services Forum
February 5, 2021

cslpreads.org

FOR KIDS TO BE WELL-READ – THEY NEED TO BE
WELL-FED ~ ENID COSTLEY, LIBRARY OF
VIRGINIA

- The need for free/reduced-price lunch does not disappear in summer
- Food insecurity is associated with developmental, cognitive, behavior and physical issues
- It becomes harder for low-income families to make ends meet in summer

usda.gov

HOW CAN LIBRARIES BECOME INVOLVED?

- **Become a promotional partner**
 - Have flyers available
 - Bring the bookmobile to summer food service sites
 - Invite sponsors to come talk about the program or provide nutrition education
 - Partner with existing sites
- **Become a summer meal site!**
 - [CSLP libraries and summer food how-to guide](#)

Benefits for libraries beyond the obvious benefits of addressing hunger
Access to new user groups, especially underserved and marginalized populations
Increased visibility of the library as a community asset
Opportunities for new partnerships
Positioning of the library as an important stakeholder in community well-being and positive child outcomes
Support for summer library programming through increased attendance

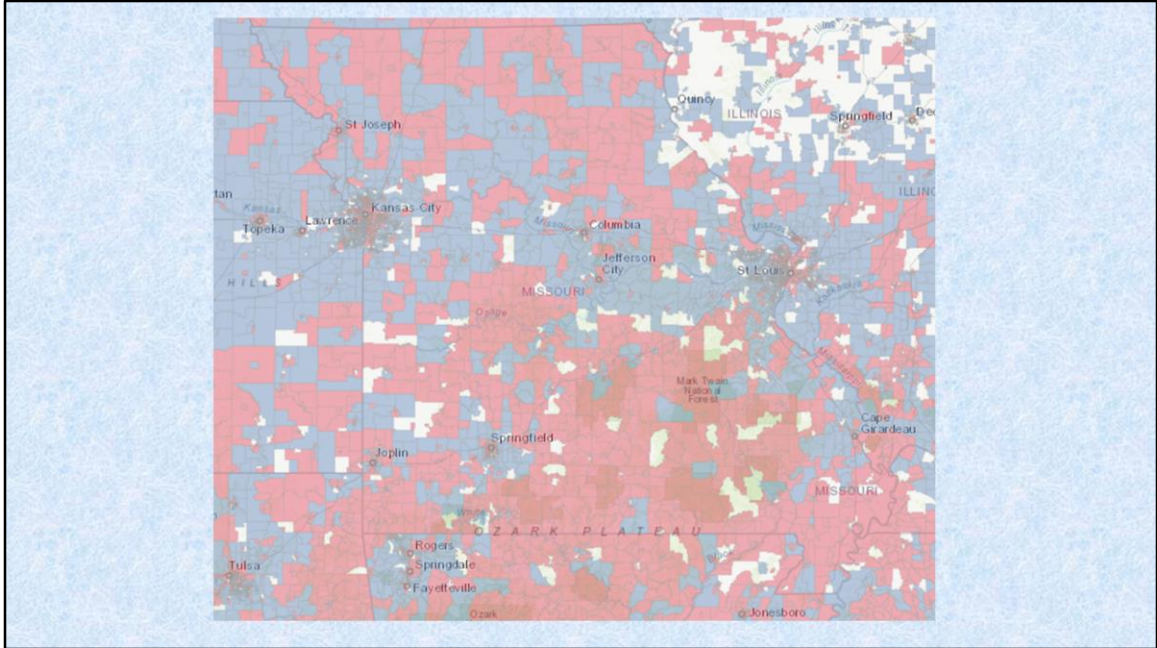
Just as a reminder – if you have a Summer Reading Program grant through the State Library, grant funds can not be used for summer meal program expenses (staff, meal bags, supplies, etc).

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)

- SFSP – a USDA funded program that provides free meals and snacks to children ages 0-18 in communities with high levels of need.
- Libraries can enhance meal distribution with Summer Library Program registration, take-and-make crafts, and other programs to go.
- Nationwide Waiver to allow non-congregate feeding extended through June 30, 2021.
- [How to Participate in Summer Meals](#)
- [Application Packet](#)

Application deadline May 1, or the first business day of May, for June commodity delivery or June advances. Final deadline is May 15, or 30 days prior to your first day of operation, whichever is earlier.

Non-congregate Feeding in Summer Food Service Program extend through June 30, 2021 [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the SFSP and the NSLP Seamless Summer Option – Extension 5 | USDA-FNS](#)



Capacity Builder map USDA website FY21 SFSP Eligibility Pink is yes Blue is no First, use the USDA Capacity Builder map to identify existing sites:

www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder 1. Wait for the map to fully load, then search for your address. 2. click on the box for summer meal sites for the most recent year to see SFSP sites near you.

ALTERNATIVES TO SFSP

- Partner with businesses and nonprofits to provide meals or snacks

Partner with existing food sites to

- Hold library card registration at summer food sites
- Sign up children, teens, and adults for your SLP
- Create pop-up libraries at summer food sites
- Provide book giveaways
- [Alternatives to SFSP](#)

If you are not in a SFSP eligible area

DAVIESS COUNTY LIBRARY

- USDA SFSP
- Deliveries to five locations – one each day
- Summer reading packets were delivered with meals
- Partnered with a church in Gallatin for food storage and kitchen use
- “Don’t just assume putting in the newspaper is enough”



Amy McMann

Summer Food Service Program through USDA – lunch only. May add snack this summer.

Delivered to 5 towns in the county – 1 location each day delivering meals for the week. The furthest location being 19 miles. Summer library packets were delivered along with the meals and reading logs could be turned in at pick-up time as well.

A high school student and a teacher were hired for the summer.

Advise – You can’t get the word out enough – don’t just assume putting schedules in the newspaper is enough – you have to keep promoting the program. The library plans to partner with the school districts to use text caster this summer.

GENTRY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Partnered with both school districts to write grant
- Library staff were trained to put lunches together
- Meals were delivered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Prep on Tuesday and Thursday
- Delivery by bookmobile



Judy Garrett and Toyka Rosier

Meals were prepared in the school kitchen. 8 library staff and one school cafeteria staff member.

Meals were delivered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday along with summer reading packets. Monday and Wednesday, meals for the next day were delivered as well. On Friday, weekend meal was also delivered. Four library staff members participated in the deliveries.

Meals and packets were prepared on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Summer reading packets were based on each week's fairytale. The story was posted to Facebook on Wednesday and packets were sent on Friday. The packets contained an activities like making the 3 little pigs house out of toothpicks and marshmallow, making watercolors out of kool-aid, making a fortune cube for Rumpelstiltskin, and growing their own beanstalk. The extension office provided recipes to include in packets. On Monday and Wednesday coloring pages, seek and finds and other activity sheets to go along with the story were available.

The library was closed most of this time and offering curbside pick-up.

ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Partner with 2nd Harvest as distribution sites (2)
- Volunteers drop off lunches Monday-Friday
 - Main branch held in Children's room
 - Volunteers serve at 2nd branch
- No overdue fines during summer – patrons can volunteer in the lunchroom to work off the fine.
- City health inspector inspects the site once a year.



St. Joseph
Public Library

Misty Snider

The library did not participate in the program last summer as 2nd Harvest requires meals to be eaten on site.

MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY READ AND FEED

- Library system partners with Harvesters – The Community Food Network for a summer program as well as a school year program.
- Pick-up times are generally scheduled for one to two hours – one or more afternoons per week.
- Average summer participants ranged from 8 to 25 per day.



Michael Willis

The library system partners with Harvesters – The Community Food Network to provide shelf-stable meals and snacks to kids 18 and under at select branches.

Most of the branches qualify under USDA guidelines, free & reduced lunch rates, census data, etc., participation is limited by brand capacity. Capacity issues include staffing pressures and having storage space that meets program criteria. Most participating branches needed one or two dedicated staff, with additional staff trained as back-up. All potential staff require training twice a year. Harvesters also does inspection visits throughout the year as well as City/County Health departments conduct annual inspections.

Pick-ups may be as many as 5 days/week. In addition to the pick up time, there is time for set up, tear down, and clean up. Weekly paperwork, attendance data, meal counts, and food ordering are also part of the staffing requirements.

At some locations, numbers increased during the school year as kids, especially teens, showed up directly after school. One of the most successful branches reported

approx. 200 meals a month in summer, with slightly higher attendance during the school year. Another active site reported over 4,500 meals served from summer 2016 to summer 2020. Other branches with low number have made the determination that continued staffing and space considerations weren't justified to continue the program.

MCPL - TIPS

- Have a lead coordinator with a back-up. Train as many as are willing.
- "Would you like a snack?" is the best marketing tool.
- Develop relationships with school districts and community partners to get the word out.
- Communicate expectations about where meals can be eaten and try to be as flexible as possible.
- Find the times and days that work best for you community.
- Be aware of additional time required for paperwork, clean-up, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Join the Food Fight: Libraries and Food Insecurity podcast

<https://teamvittles.podbean.com>

Thank you to Amy McMann, Daviess County Library; Judy Garrett and Toyka Rosier, Gentry County Public Library; Misty Snider, St. Joseph Public Library; and Michael Willis, Mid-Continent Public Library for sharing their summer meal programs.



Missouri Secretary of State **State Library**



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